

THIRD WARD CANDIDATES



KARL SKALA

Personal: Age 66. He is married to Mahree Skala. He has three children from a previous marriage.

Occupation: Retired biomedical research coordinator at MU.

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GARY KESPOHL

Personal: Age 66. Married to Patty Kespohl. They have two sons and six grandchildren.

Occupation: Owner and manager of Central Missouri Computer Center.

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DOWNTOWN ZONING

Notes that Planning and Zoning Commission and others are reviewing C-2 zoning and that there have been similar efforts in the past. Says “overlay” zoning or conditional use permits for high-density residential might work.

Says stakeholders are already reviewing this but some think C-2 zoning is OK the way it is. Favors the review and is open to changes.

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

Says incentives are worth carefully considering, case by case. Fairness to existing business is important. Says tax increment financing should be reserved for specific projects rather than districts.

Says that incentives have “become a way of the world” and that the city needs a list of incentives it can offer to become a player in the market.

AIRPORT

Says the city could probably attract more and better flight service. Says there is a need to update the airport terminal but doesn’t want to take a “Cadillac approach.”

Says terminal enhancements are key to being able to handle more flights and attract more passengers.

BUS SYSTEM

Says the city should have a multi-size fleet to meet varying ridership demand in different parts of the city. Supports longer service hours and perhaps weekend service. Advocates “user-based” fees to finance the system.

Wants to expand transit but find a way to make it financially sustainable. Advocates reviewing and adjusting routes but says he needs to study the system more before reaching firm conclusions.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS

Says the Third Ward has been neglected since he left the council in 2010. Wants to make road and sidewalk projects possible with a user-based approach that assesses development impact.

Wants street and sidewalk projects on Clark Lane from Route PP to Ballenger Lane, Ballenger from Clark to Mexico Gravel Road and Brown Station Road northeast to the city limits.

MU ENROLLMENT

Says the city must accommodate enrollment growth but warns that the pace of MU enrollment might slow. The city, he says, must carefully evaluate that possibility.

Says housing and parking are the greatest impacts. Would rather have student apartments downtown and near campus so they can ride the bus rather than driving from far areas of town.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Says it’s imperative that the Police Department build public trust. Advocates community policing to develop sources who will identify “bad guys” and help people arrest them.

Says it would be a good idea to have two precincts, north and south, to speed up response times and shift changes through the downtown headquarters.

CRIME

Says crime prevention is a primary responsibility of government. Police command staff should interact more with the public. Cites community policing in Douglass Park as a success.

Says Neighborhood Watch and community policing have proved effective. Residents should know officers by their first names and be able to call them any time they need.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Says road and sidewalk improvements in the Ballenger Lane and Clark Lane corridors is important, particularly given that Battle High School will open in that area soon.

Infrastructure would be his priority. Streets in northeast parts of the Third Ward, as well as sewer and water systems, need attention because they were installed by builders before city standards applied.